



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Crime Subcommittee Hearing Thursday on Death Penalty Legislation: Does it Deter Crime and Save Lives?

What: Hearing: Does an Accurate and Swift Death Penalty Deter Crimes and Save Lives? A Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3060, the "Terrorist Death Penalty Enhancement Act of 2005," and H.R. 3035, the "Streamlined Procedures Act of 2005"

Who: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security – Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Chairman

When: 1:00 p.m., Thursday, June 30, 2005

Where: 2141 Rayburn Building

This hearing will be immediately followed by Subcommittee Markup of H.R. 1751, the "Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act of 2005."

BACKGROUND...

- ✓ The death penalty's deterrent effect on crime and ability to protect innocent lives continues to be debated. One journalist reviewing available data has pointed out, "[a]lmost the entire drop in murder rates over the past decade has occurred in States with capital punishment, with the biggest decrease seen in States that are executing people." Despite opponents' claims, data suggests that our appellate and habeas system for review has been effective in identifying and ultimately rectifying errors at the trial and appellate levels – errors which encompass a variety of reasons other than claims of actual innocence.

THESE BILLS WILL...

- ⇒ Allow the death penalty for any terrorist who in the course of committing a terrorist offense engages in conduct that results in the death of a person.
- ⇒ Reform and streamline death penalty procedures to ensure that those found guilty do not abuse the criminal justice system.

WITNESSES: Mr. Barry M. Sabin, Chief of Counterterrorism Section for the Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; The Honorable Joshua K. Marquis, District Attorney, Clatsop County, OR; Mr. Ron Eisenberg, Deputy District Attorney, Philadelphia, PA; and Mr. Bernard E. Harcourt, Professor of Law/Faculty Director of Academic Affairs, University of Chicago.

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